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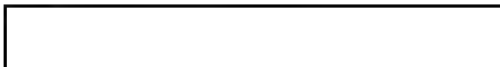
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The militant Buddhist faction in South Vietnam may be preparing to take an active part in the forthcoming election campaign which officially gets under way today.

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[redacted] the militants recently brought a large number of their provincial leaders to Saigon to work out a policy toward the various presidential slates. There had been some question whether the militants would adopt a public position on the election after the failure of their boycott against last year's Constituent Assembly elections.

It is still not clear whether the militants have decided to support any of the eleven presidential candidates, although there are indications that they may be leaning toward Tran Van Huong's slate. A recent letter to Chief of State Thieu suggests that, at a minimum, the militants will probably take a public stand against the Thieu-Ky ticket.

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NOTES

Syria: Frictions are again increasing within the Baathist regime, and some new power alignment may be taking place. Some of the military have been expressing strong dissatisfaction with the government's actions during the Arab-Israeli war, and several of Syria's most radical leaders, including the head of the Syrian trade union federation, have now been removed from their posts, [REDACTED] Nevertheless, any likely successor regime would remain strongly leftist and closely aligned with Moscow.

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Peru: President Belaunde and opposition party leaders appear eager to reach a compromise which will allow Congress to resume its functions and are continuing quiet negotiations toward this end. Military leaders generally support Belaunde. The US Embassy doubts that these leaders will intervene unless the dispute is so prolonged as to threaten public order. [REDACTED]

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